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Town of

Easton

New Hampshire



ONE HUNDRED TWENTIETH ANNUAL REPORT

**Year Ending
December 31, 1996**

This Year's Annual Town Report is Dedicated to



JOSEPH DUGGAN

Cemetery Trustee, 1989-1995

Fire Chief, 1991-1997

Joe Duggan epitomizes the ideal small town volunteer official. His public spiritedness, dedication, capacity for and willingness to perform difficult tasks, and, above all, his wonderful personality, will always be gratefully remembered by all who worked with him.

As Chairman of the Cemetery Trustees, Joe took the lead in pulling together and reconciling obscure and confusing Town records so that all gravesites could be located and mapped, cemetery rows established and marked, and a permanent computer program record created. As Fire Chief, he oversaw the development of the Easton Fire Department from its infancy into a stable, well-equipped, well-trained, and fiscally responsible established Town institution.

A grateful Town salutes Joe Duggan on the occasion of his retirement as Fire Chief.

Town of Easton

ANNUAL REPORT

of the Town Officers

for the year ending December 31, 1996

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TOWN OFFICERS

Board of Selectmen

Gregory M. Sorg - 1997

Pamela McLaren - 1998

Mark Brooks - 1999

Town Clerk

Barbara J. Collier

Treasurer

Kim Donovan

Auditor

Ralph Brigida

Tax Collector

Barbara J. Collier

Moderator

Stephen North - 1996
(resigned 9/96)

Lafayette School Board

Robert Hackett

Trustee of Trust Funds

Mary Ann Chippendale

Cemetery Trustees

Gregory Sorg - 1996

Robert Every - 1997

Carole Hutton - 1998
(resigned 8/96)

Bernice Ford - 10/96

Planning Board

Jim Collier - 1996

Andrew Noyes - 1997

Maurice Rodrigue - 1997

Gregory Sorg - 1998

Mark Brooks (Ex Officio)

Library Trustees

Eunice Woods - 1996

Carole Hutton - 1997

(resigned 8/96)

Nancy Feenstra - 10/96

Priscilla Phipps - 1998

Supervisors of the Checklist

Patricia Every - 1996

Nancy Feenstra - 1998

Lois Hackett - 2000

APPOINTED OFFICIALS & BOARD MEMBERS

Fire Chief

Joseph Duggan

(resigned 12/31/96)

Charles Casey - 1/97

Chief of Police

Robert Every

Librarian

Harriet Taylor

Zoning Board

Robert Every

Dennis Ford

Joseph Exley

Karl Hunninghaus

Marjorie Libby

Pamela McLaren (Ex Officio)

**TOWN OF EASTON
TOWN MEETING WARRANT
MARCH 11, 1997**

To the inhabitants of the Town of Easton in the County of Grafton, qualified to vote in Town affairs:

You are hereby notified to meet at the Town Hall in said Town on Tuesday, March 11, 1997. Polls will be open from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m. for ballot voting on Article 1. The Town's annual business meeting will follow at 7:00 p.m., to act upon the following subjects:

ARTICLE 1. To choose all necessary officers for the ensuing year (ballot vote).

ARTICLE 2. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$88,672.00 for general Town operations:

4130 - Executive	\$ 6,895.00
4140 - Election, Registration & Vital Stats	1,610.00
4150 - Financial Administration	1,815.00
4152 - Revaluation of Property	500.00
4153 - Legal Expense	500.00
4155 - Personnel Administration	700.00
4191 - Planning & Zoning	300.00
4194 - General Government Buildings	2,692.00
4195 - Cemeteries	1,180.00
4196 - Insurance	4,150.00
4197 - Advertising & Reg. Associations	1,245.00
4199 - Contingency Fund	5,000.00
4210 - Police Department	4,300.00
4215 - Ambulances	1,350.00
4220 - Fire Department	11,450.00
4290 - Forest Fire Fighting & Training	500.00
4299 - Communications	1,452.00
4312 - Highways	24,000.00
4323 - Hazardous Waste Collection	233.00
4324 - Solid Waste Disposal	12,662.00
4414 - Animal Control	100.00
4415 - Health Agencies	1,111.00
4419 - Hospice	134.00
4442 - Welfare - General Assistance	500.00
4449 - Tri-County Community Action	375.00
4520 - Recreation Programs	3,168.00
4550 - Library	300.00
4612 - Conservation Commission	200.00
4723 - Interest on TAN note	<u>250.00</u>
TOTAL	\$ 88,672.00

ARTICLE 3. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the establishment of a Capital Equipment Reserve Fund for the equipment acquisition and replacement for the Easton Fire Department, and to raise and appropriate \$1,000.00 to be placed in this fund towards this purpose, and to accept the sum of \$1,000.00 from the Easton Fire Fighters' Association to offset this appropriation, and to appoint the Selectmen as agents to administer this fund. (The Selectmen recommend this article.)

ARTICLE 4. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$ 8,925.00 for the purposes of purchasing and installing a new 800 gallon capacity polypropylene water tank. (The Selectmen recommend this article.)

ARTICLE 5. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the sale of the 1969 Ford fire engine for a price to be approved by the Selectmen in their discretion, and to raise and appropriate up to \$5,000.00 to be placed into the Capitol Equipment Reserve Fund established under Article 3, such appropriation to be offset by the proceeds of the sale of the fire engine. (The Selectmen recommend this article.)

ARTICLE 6. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the establishment of a Capital Reserve Fund for the future revaluation of the Town, and to raise and appropriate \$10,000.00 to be placed in this fund toward this purpose and to appoint the Selectmen as agents to administer this fund. (The Selectmen recommend this article.)

ARTICLE 7. To see if the Town will raise and appropriate the sum of \$7,000.00 to resurface as much as possible of Gibson Road, the paved portion of Paine Road near the Craven property, Beaver Meadow, the Town Hall parking lot, and the fire station driveway, in that order, with a bituminous liquefied asphalt coating. (The Selectmen recommend this article.)

ARTICLE 8. To see if the Town will vote to fly, beneath the American flag on the Town Hall flagpole, a second MIA flag to be provided by the Littleton VFW.

ARTICLE 9. To see if the Town will raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,000.00 to be placed into the Town Hall Windows Replacement Capital Reserve Fund established at the 1996 Town Meeting. (The Selectmen recommend this article.)

ARTICLE 10. To see if the Town will raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,000.00 to begin the process of clearing, cleaning up and seeding the land added to the Kinsman Cemetery on its east end by the boundary line agreement with the Paine Estate. (The Selectmen recommend this article.)

ARTICLE 11. To see if the Town will vote to modify the elderly exemptions from property tax in the Town of Easton, based on assessed value, for qualified taxpayers, in order that it shall be as follows: for a person 65 years of age up to 75 years, \$5,000.00; for a person 75 years up to 80 years, \$10,000.00; and for a person 80 years of age or older, \$20,000.00. To qualify, the person must have been a New Hampshire resident for at least 5 years, own the real estate individually or jointly, or if the real estate is owned by such person's spouse, they must have been married for at least 5 years. In addition, the taxpayer must have a net income of not more than \$13,400.00 or, if married, a combined net income or not more than \$20,000.00 and own assets not in excess of \$35,000.00 excluding the value of the person's residence. (This article must be voted by ballot.) (The Selectmen recommend this article.)

ARTICLE 12. To see if the Town will vote to require the Selectmen hereafter to retain all surplus funds until such funds have accumulated in an amount at least equal to fifteen (15) percent of the Town's total county, school and town expenditures during the immediately preceding fiscal year; and thereafter to maintain such surplus in such amount unless required otherwise by law or by vote of a future Town Meeting. (The Selectmen recommend this article.)

ARTICLE 13. To see if the Town will vote to discontinue the Easton Public Library effective immediately, and to authorize the Library Trustees, subject to the approval of the Commissioner of Cultural Affairs, to loan or dispose of the Library property of the Town. (Petitioned Article)

ARTICLE 14. To see if the Town, in the event that the preceding article has passed, will vote to raise and appropriate the greater of \$250.00 or an amount equal to the unexpended portion of the 1996 Library budget to defray any Library closing costs, including, but not necessarily limited to book appraisals and any necessary or convenient classifying, advertising or removal costs. (Petitioned Article) (The Selectmen recommend this article.)

ARTICLE 15. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$20,000.00 to be used, along with the \$5,000.00 set aside by Article 10 at the 1996 Annual Meeting for the purpose of soliciting bids and awarding contracts for the completion of the following Town Hall renovations during FY 1997:

1. Replacement of all windows with vinyl-clad, double paned energy efficient windows.
2. Repair of all exterior trim by applying vinyl, if feasible, or by painting if the only alternative.
3. Cleaning of the most soiled areas of the existing vinyl siding, particularly in the vicinity of the handicap entrance ramp.
4. Replacement of the kitchen ceiling with a vinyl or vinyl-like paneling that would be attractive, rodent resistant and maintenance friendly.

The Selectmen shall be appointed as agents to administer this fund. (The Selectmen do not recommend this article.) (Petitioned Article)

ARTICLE 16. To act upon any other business that may legally come before this meeting.

Gregory Sorg
Pamela McLaren
Mark Brooks
Selectmen of Easton

SELECTMEN'S REPORT

The year 1996 was a quiet one in Easton. As voted by the Town Meeting on March 12, 1996, the fire house construction note was paid off, and \$5,000 was placed in a capital reserve fund for future replacement of the Town Hall's windows. The resurfacing of the paved (south) half of Paine Road was completed, with sufficient material left over to resurface a portion of the Town Hall parking lot. All Town-financed activities have kept within their budgets, except for the Fire Department, for which \$1,000 was advanced from the contingency fund towards the purchase of the newest fire truck. This sum will be reimbursed to the Town by the Fire Fighters' Association, should the Town vote to accept the warrant article devoted to that purpose.

Favorable weather not only kept highway expenses within budget but enabled funds to be allocated towards improving the turn-around on Gingerbread Road. With the end of the litigation involving the Cooley Estate property, substantial progress has been made towards redemption of the past-due taxes on that land.

Although the overall Easton tax rate continues its disturbing trend of recent years to rise sharply, it should be noted that this rise has been due almost entirely to the component for support of the Lafayette and Profile School Districts voted by residents of those districts and shown as "School" on the tax bills, over which the Selectmen have no authority or control. The only one of the three components of the tax rate over which the Selectmen exercise control, which arises out of the votes of the Town Meeting each year and is shown as "Town" on the tax bills, has actually decreased in recent years, both in amount and as a percentage of the total tax rate.

The Selectmen anticipate no major new initiatives during 1997, but are concerned that the time for a new reappraisal of the Town is drawing near, for which sufficient funds must be raised soon. Certain road improvement actions are expected to be carried out, which would include replacement of the culvert under Ruskin Road nearest its intersection with Loop Road, resurfacing of Gibson Road, resurfacing or oiling of Beaver Meadow Road, and oiling of the Fire Department driveway, the Town Hall parking lot, and the paved portion of Paine Road near the Craven property.

Selectmen, Town of Easton

Gregory M. Sorg
Pamela A. McLaren
Mark Brooks

BUDGET OF THE TOWN OF EASTON - REVENUE

SOURCES OF REVENUE	Estimated <u>1996</u>	Actual <u>1996</u>	Estimated <u>1997</u>
Taxes:			
3120 Land Use Change Taxes	\$ -0-	\$ 2,500.00	\$ -0-
3185 Yield Taxes	2,300.00	2,370.00	4,860.00
3190 Interest & Penalties on Delinquent Taxes	3,000.00	4,803.00	3,000.00
Licenses, Permits and Fees:			
3210 Business Licenses and Permits	100.00	18.00	200.00
3220 Motor Vehicle Permit Fees	25,000.00	27,534.00	26,500.00
3230 Building Permits	200.00	160.00	150.00
3290 Other Licenses, Permits & Fees	350.00	504.00	100.00
3311-3319 From Federal Government	10,417.00	10,417.00	8,000.00
From State:			
3351 Shared Revenue	2,475.00	4,518.00	2,695.00
3352 Meals & Rooms Tax Distribution	5,368.00	5,368.00	5,869.00
Charges for Services:			
3401-3406 Income from Departments	150.00	10.00	-0-
Miscellaneous Revenues:			
3502 Interest on Investments	1,000.00	1,316.00	1,000.00
3503-3509 Other	1,000.00	2,216.00	1,000.00
Interfund Operating Transfers In:			
3915 Capital Reserve Funds	-0-	-0-	5,000.00
Other Financing Sources:			
Amounts Voted from "Surplus"	<u>-0-</u>	<u>49,503.00</u>	<u>-0-</u>
Total Revenues	\$51,360.00	\$111,237.00	\$58,374.00

BUDGET SUMMARY

Subtotal 1 Recommended	\$88,672.00
Subtotal 2 "Individual" Warrant Articles	37,175.00
Subtotal 3 Special Warrant Articles	<u>21,000.00</u>
Total Appropriations Recommended	146,847.00
Less: Amount of Estimated Revenues (Exclusvie of Property Taxes)	<u>58,374.00</u>
Amount of Taxes To Be Raised	\$ 88,473.00

BUDGET OF THE TOWN OF EASTON - EXPENDITURES

PURPOSE OF APPROPRIATION	Estimated <u>1996</u>	Actual <u>1996</u>	Estimated <u>1997</u>
General Government:			
4130-4139 Executive	\$ 7,495.00	\$ 6,027.00	\$ 6,895.00
4140-4149 Election, Registration, & Vital Statistics	2,234.00	3,443.00	1,610.00
4150-4151 Financial Administration	1,900.00	2,021.00	1,815.00
4152 Revaluation of Property	500.00	275.00	500.00
4153 Legal Expense	1,200.00	390.00	500.00
4155-4159 Personnel Administration	650.00	293.00	700.00
4191-4193 Planning and Zoning	385.00	331.00	300.00
4194 General Government Bldg.	2,950.00	3,673.00	2,692.00
4195 Cemeteries	1,180.00	1,180.00	1,180.00
4196 Insurance	2,550.00	3,866.00	4,150.00
4197 Advertising & Regional Associations	1,145.00	1,144.00	1,245.00
4199 Other General Government	5,000.00	-0-	5,000.00
Public Safety:			
4210-4214 Police	4,300.00	2,916.00	4,300.00
4215-4219 Ambulance	1,300.00	1,300.00	1,350.00
4220-4229 Fire	12,450.00	11,722.00	11,450.00
4290-4298 Emergency Management	500.00	6.00	500.00
4299 Other Public Safety (including Communications)	1,320.00	1,320.00	1,452.00
Highways and Streets:			
4311-4312 Highways and Streets	24,000.00	21,408.00	24,000.00
Sanitation:			
4321-4323 Solid Waste Collection	233.00	223.00	233.00
4324-4325 Solid Waste Disposal	11,978.00	12,076.00	12,662.00
Health:			
4411-4414 Pest Control	100.00	4.00	100.00
4415-4419 Health Agencies and Hospitals	1,301.00	1,301.00	1,245.00
Welfare:			
4441-4442 Direct Assistance	500.00	100.00	500.00
4444 Intergov. Welfare Payments	375.00	525.00	375.00
Culture and Recreation:			
4520-4529 Parks and Recreation	3,618.00	3,168.00	3,168.00
4550-4559 Library	500.00	156.00	300.00
Conservation:			
4611-4612 Purchase of Natural Resources	200.00	200.00	200.00

Debt Service:			
4711 Principal-Long Term Bonds & Notes	37,803.00	37,803.00	-0-
4712 Interest-Long Term Bonds & Notes	2,168.00	767.00	-0-
4723 Interest on TAN	250.00	-0-	250.00
Capital Outlay:			
4902 Machinery, Vehicles & Equipment	<u>2,500.00</u>	<u>3,319.00</u>	<u>-0-</u>
TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS	\$132,585.00	\$120,957.00	\$88,672.00

STATEMENT OF APPROPRIATIONS AND TAXES ASSESSED

Total Town Appropriations Budgeted	\$143,585.00
Add: Overlay	54.00
Add: War Service Credits	1,400.00
Less: Town Revenues Budgeted	102,337.00
Less: Shared Revenue To Town	<u>241.00</u>
Net Town Appropriation	<u>42,461.00</u>
Total School Appropriation	394,617.00
Less: Shared Revenue	<u>1,682.00</u>
Net School Appropriation	<u>392,935.00</u>
Total County Appropriation	40,202.00
Less: Shared Revenue To Town	<u>121.00</u>
Net County Appropriation	<u>40,081.00</u>
Total Property Tax Assessed	475,477.00
Less: War Service Credits	<u>1,400.00</u>
Total Property Tax Commitment	\$474,077.00

	1996 Tax Rate	%	1995 Tax Rate	%
TOWN	\$1.69	8.95	\$ 2.34	15.47
COUNTY	1.59	8.42	1.43	9.45
SCHOOL	<u>15.61</u>	<u>82.63</u>	<u>11.36</u>	<u>75.08</u>
TOTAL	\$18.89/1000	100.00%	\$15.13/1000	100.00%

SUMMARY INVENTORY OF ASSESSED VALUATION

	Per Town	Per State
Land	\$11,876,246.00	\$11,859,217.00
Buildings	12,842,180.00	12,872,730.00
Electric Utilities	508,551.00	513,824.00
Less Blind Exemption	30,000.00	30,000.00
Less Elderly Exemption	<u>50,000.00</u>	<u>45,000.00</u>
Net Valuation Upon Which Tax Rate Is Computed		
Using State Figures	25,146,977.00	25,170,771.00
Decrease in Net Valuation over 1995	\$ 389,777.00	\$ 543,620.00

BALANCE SHEET

December 31, 1996

Accrual Basis

ASSETS

Cash Checking Account	\$182,673.77	
Cash - Yield Tax	5,205.49	
Uncollected Property Taxes	49,509.00	
Tax Liens Receivables	14,141.34	
Less Reserve for Uncollected Taxes	1,000.00	
Accrued Interest Receivable	1,707.00	
Accounts Receivable - Land Use Tax	2,500.00	
Accounts Receivable Other	<u>220.38</u>	
Total Assets		\$254,956.98

LIABILITIES

School Taxes Payable	\$196,973.00	
Yield Tax Bond Deposits	5,205.49	
Accounts Payable	11,648.24	
Overpayments of Property Taxes	<u>1,546.00</u>	
Total Liabilities		\$215,372.73
Excess of Assets over Liabilities (Surplus)		<u>\$ 39,584.25</u>

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

Detail

4140	Barbara Collier	\$ 61.50
4153	Samaha & Vaughan	50.00
4191	Provan & Lorber	220.38
4194	NYNEX	27.58
4194	Martin Stefanik	16.00
4194	PSNH	31.98
4312	Bob Peckett	3,245.00
4324	Town of Franconia	6,211.70
4415	Hospice	200.00
4442	Millwood Forestry - P. Hopp	100.00
4520	Town of Franconia	<u>1,484.10</u>
Total		<u>\$11,648.24</u>

SCHEDULE OF TOWN PROPERTY

Town Hall		
Land	\$ 29,450.00	
Building	<u>118,550.00</u>	
		\$148,000.00
Fire Station Building, at cost		63,261.00
Furniture and Equipment	5,619.00	
Library - Furniture and Equipment	2,200.00	
Police Department - Equipment	1,200.00	
Fire Department - Equipment	26,000.00	
Trucks	<u>17,500.00</u>	
		<u>\$ 52,519.00</u>
Total Town Property		\$263,780.00

GENERAL LONG-TERM DEBT

December 31, 1996

Accrual Basis

	Principal	Interest
Beginning Amount - January 1, 1996	\$37,802.86	\$ -0-
Payments in 1996	37,802.86	785.07
Refund	<u>-0-</u>	<u>(18.25)</u>
Ending Amount - December 31, 1996	<u>\$ -0-</u>	<u>\$766.82</u>

AUDITOR'S REPORT

I have examined the reports and accounts from the Board of Selectmen, Tax Collector, Town Clerk, Treasurer, Trustees of the Trust Funds, Cemetery Trustees, Library Trustees, Conservation Commission and the Fire Department of the Town of Easton for the year ended December 31, 1996. My examination was made in accordance with the State of New Hampshire guidelines and generally accepted auditing standards as I deemed necessary in the circumstances.

In my opinion, these reports and accounts present fairly the financial position and results of operations of the Town of Easton for the year ended December 31, 1996.

Ralph Brigida, Auditor
February 23, 1997

TREASURER'S REPORT
for the Year Ending December 31, 1996
Cash Summary

Bank Balance - January 1, 1996		\$ 162,718.46
Receipts:		
Tax Collector	480,492.34	
Town Clerk	28,025.82	
From Federal Government	10,417.00	
From State of New Hampshire	13,047.77	
From Peoples Bank--Interest	1,316.43	
From Other Sources	<u>4,311.73</u>	
Total Receipts		537,611.09
Disbursements:		
To Grafton County	40,202.00	
To School Districts	343,246.00	
To Pay Off LT-Debt	37,802.86	
Orders of Selectmen	<u>96,404.92</u>	
Total Disbursements		517,655.78
Bank Balance December 31, 1996		<u>\$182,673.77</u>

YIELD TAX BOND ACCOUNT
for the Year Ending December 31, 1996

Balance On Hand January 1, 1996	\$1,435.95
Deposits	3,706.25
Interest	<u>63.29</u>
Balance On Hand December 31, 1996	\$5,205.49

TREASURER'S REPORT

Year Ending December 31, 1996

Cash Receipts Detail

1080 Tax Collector - Property Tax	\$471,063.91	
2022 Tax Collector - Overpayments	3,168.00	
3185 Tax Collector - Yield Tax	2,370.03	
3190 Tax Collector - Interest & Costs	<u>3,890.40</u>	\$480,492.34
3210 Town Clerk - Filing Fees	18.32	
3220 Town Clerk - MV Permits & Titles	27,050.00	
Town Clerk - MV Agent Fees	484.00	
3290 Town Clerk - Dog Licenses	242.50	
Town Clerk - Transfer Station Permits	98.00	
Town Clerk - Marriage Licenses	90.00	
Town Clerk - Misc. Fees & Penalties	<u>43.00</u>	28,025.82
3356 Federal Government - Entitlement		10,417.00
3351 State of NH - Revenue Sharing	7,680.24	
3353 State of NH - Highway Block Grant	<u>5,367.53</u>	13,047.77
3502 Peoples Bank - Interest on Checking Account		1,316.43
3230 Selectmen - Building Permits	160.00	
3503 Selectmen - Town Hall Rental	25.00	
3506 Selectmen - Refund From Comp. Funds of NH	541.33	
3506 Selectmen - NHMA Dividend	1,445.08	
3508 Selectmen - Fire Truck Donation	100.00	
3509 Selectmen - Checklists	40.70	
Selectmen - Current Use Applications	34.00	
Selectmen - Zoning Ordinances	9.50	
Selectmen - Town History	15.00	
Selectmen - Copies	5.00	
3401 Selectmen - Income From Dept. - Police Report	10.00	
4140 Selectmen - Reimbursement - Town Clerk	20.00	
4191 Selectmen - Reimbursement - Block Road Inspec.	750.00	
Selectmen - Reimbursement	76.62	
Selectmen - Reimbursement - Courier Ad	17.85	
4220 Selectmen - Reimbursement - Fire Dept. Insurance	835.00	
4290 Selectmen - Reimbursement - Forestry	23.90	
4312 Selectmen - Reimbursement - Driveway Paving	154.50	
4721 Selectmen - Refund on LT Debt Interest	18.25	
3290 Selectmen - Pistol Permits	<u>30.00</u>	<u>4,311.73</u>
Total Receipts		\$537,611.09

TREASURER'S REPORT
Year Ending December 31, 1996
Cash Disbursements Detail

4130 - Executive

BJ's Wordshop	\$ 1,974.32	
Bank Service Charge	150.10	
Registry of Deeds	9.50	
B. Collier - Reimburse	213.24	
B. Rodrigue	5.73	
Lafayette Lions Club	100.00	
Hydro Dynamics Corp.	20.00	
White Mt. Publishers	170.98	
Glen Press	889.00	
Lyndonville Office Supply	35.20	
Cartographic Associates	1,095.00	
N.H. State Prison Industries	17.50	
State of N.H.	2.00	
Postmaster - Franconia	45.00	
G. Sorg	500.00	
P. McLaren	400.00	
M. Brooks	325.00	
E. Rodrigue	<u>75.00</u>	\$ 6,027.57

4140 - Election, Registration, Vital Statistics

National Market Reports	73.00	
B. Collier	1,585.02	
CPI Printing Service	48.52	
Edna Boisvert	20.00	
Robert Glover	19.00	
Loon Reservation Service	10.67	
White Mt. Publishers	202.50	
P. Every	6.47	
Department of Agriculture	47.00	
Boise Cascade Office Products	237.50	
NHCTCA	20.00	
Town Hall Press	105.47	
Treasurer - State of N.H.	38.00	
E. Rodrigue	42.50	
L. Hackett	170.00	
P. Every	140.00	
N. Feenstra	167.50	
B. Collier	155.00	
M. Chippendale	85.00	
J. Duggan	60.00	
J. Laboe	57.50	
E. Boisvert	55.00	
J. Collier	45.00	
L. Robar	<u>11.25</u>	3,401.90

4150 - Financial Administration		
NHTCA	35.00	
Return Item Charge	35.00	
K. Donovan - Reimburse	32.00	
Grafton Co. Registry of Deeds	10.00	
B. Collier - Reimburse	373.10	
Peoples Bank	9.86	
K. Donovan	500.00	
B. Collier	500.00	
R. Brigida	400.00	
Treasurer - State of N.H.	<u>126.25</u>	2,021.21
4152 - Revaluation Of Property		
Cartographic Associates		387.50
4153 - Legal Expense		
K. Bruno	277.69	
Samaha & Vaughan	<u>106.25</u>	383.94
4155 - Payroll Taxes		
Peoples Bank		292.62
4191 - Planning & Zoning		
White Mountain Publishers	214.56	
Office of Registry of Deeds	70.50	
R. Every	125.20	
Provan & Lorber, Inc.	717.42	
The Ink Spot	57.75	
NHMA	<u>60.00</u>	1,245.43
4194 - General Government Buildings		
Harris Energy	760.57	
NYNEX	332.49	
PSNH	393.63	
Franconia Hardware	36.37	
Vin Place & Sons	245.00	
R.W. Anthony	50.00	
Jed Birch & Sons	72.00	
J.C. Plumbing & Heating	568.64	
Bob Peckett & Sons	220.00	
M. Stefanik	32.00	
Amerigas	211.28	
J. Cavanaugh & Sons	810.00	
Gagnon P. & H.	62.00	
R. Brigida - Landscaping supplies	82.89	
A. Brigida - Landscaping supplies	<u>60.75</u>	3,937.62
4195 - Cemetery Trustees		
R. Every		1,180.00

4196 - Insurance		
NHMA		3,865.84
4197 - Advertising/Regional Associations		
NHMA	500.00	
North Country Council, Inc.	324.13	
NH Assoc. of Assessing Officials	20.00	
Chamber of Commerce	<u>300.00</u>	1,144.13
4902 - Contingency Fund		
R. Tipping		1,000.00
4210 - Police Department		
R. Every		2,916.43
4215 - Ambulance Service		
Ross Ambulance	1,000.00	
Franconia Fast Squad	<u>300.00</u>	1,300.00
4220 - Fire Department		
Easton Fire Department	12,056.93	
J. Duggan	<u>500.00</u>	12,556.93
4290 - Forest Fire Fighting & Training		
Town of Franconia		29.75
4299 - Communications		
Grafton Co. Sheriff's Dept.		1,320.00
4312 - Highways		
Bob Peckett & Sons	16,958.02	
C. Wright	435.00	
A. Whitcomb	123.05	
Cargill Salt	<u>646.43</u>	18,162.50
4414 - Department of Agriculture		4.00
4323 - Hazardous Waste Collection		
No. Country Council		223.00
4324 - Solid Waste Disposal		
Town of Franconia		5,864.00
4415 - Health		
White Mountain Mental Health	207.00	
Littleton Hospital	250.00	
Grafton County Senior Citizens	100.00	
No. Country Home Health	<u>544.00</u>	1,101.00

4449 - Tri-County Community Action		
Community Action Outreach	150.00	
Tri-County Cap	<u>375.00</u>	525.00
4520 - Recreation Program		1,684.00
4550 - Library		
Dartmouth Book Store	157.79	
H. Taylor	<u>156.20</u>	313.99
4612 - Conservation Committee		200.00
4711 - Principal - Long Term Debt		37,800.00
4721 - Interest - Long Term Debt		787.93
4931 - Grafton County		40,202.00
2075.1 - Schools		
Profile School District	173,216.00	
Lafayette Reg. School District	<u>170,030.00</u>	343,246.00
1110.1 - Tax Collector - 1996 Lien		14,442.69
4902 - Grolen Communications - Article 8		2,319.00
4312 - Pike Industries - Article 7		6,154.80
2022.2 - Refunds & Overpayments of Property Taxes		
Transamerica Tax Service	717.00	
Ruskin Family	503.00	
E. Buxton	<u>395.00</u>	<u>1,615.00</u>
Total Disbursements		\$517,655.78

LAFAYETTE REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
Apportionment 1996-97

Operating Expenses apportioned 100% on 1994-95 ADM-R and Capital Expenses apportioned 100% on Equalized Valuation.

Pre-existing Districts	Amounts
Easton	\$ 173,583.00
Franconia	788,560.00
Sugar Hill	<u>348,823.00</u>
Total Tax Assessment	\$ 1,310,966.00

PROFILE REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
Apportionment 1996-97

Operating Expenses apportioned 80% on 1994-95 ADM-R and 20% on the 1994 Equalized Valuation. Lafayette share apportioned on 100% 1994-95 ADM-R.

Pre-existing Districts	Amounts
Bethlehem	\$ 1,406,148.00
Easton	221,034.00
Franconia	467,666.00
Sugar Hill	<u>346,685.00</u>
Total Tax Assessment	\$ 2,441,533.00

TAX COLLECTOR - SUMMARY OF WARRANTS

Levies of 1996 & Prior

DEBITS

Item:	Levies of:	
	1996	1995 & Prior
Uncollected Taxes - Beginning of Fiscal Year:		
Property Taxes	N/A	\$40,881.46
Yield Taxes	N/A	N/A
Taxes Committed to Collector:		
Property Taxes	473,714.00	N/A
Yield Taxes	2,370.03	N/A
Overpayments:		
Property Taxes	3,168.00	N/A
Adjustment	.51	-0-
Interest & Costs Collected on Delinquent Taxes	<u>275.40</u>	<u>2,683.05</u>
TOTAL DEBITS	\$479,527.94	\$43,564.51

CREDITS

Remitted to Treasurer During Fiscal Year:		
Property Taxes	\$424,118.51	\$40,881.46
Yield Taxes	2,370.03	-0-
Interest	275.40	2,683.05
Overpayments	3,168.00	-0-
Abatements Allowed:		
Property Taxes	87.00	-0-
Uncollected Taxes End of Year:		
Property Taxes	<u>49,509.00</u>	<u>-0-</u>
TOTAL CREDITS	\$479,527.94	\$43,564.51

SUMMARY OF TAX LIEN ACCOUNTS

DEBITS

Tax Liens Executed to Town	<u>1995</u>	<u>1994</u>
Unredeemed Taxes Balance at Beginning of Fiscal Year	\$ -0-	\$ -0-
Liens Executed During Fiscal Year	14,442.69	5,762.59
Interest & Costs Collected After Lien Execution	<u>60.35</u>	<u>871.60</u>
Total Debits	14,503.04	6,634.19

CREDITS

Remittance to Treasurer Redemptions	1,934.21	4,129.73
Interest & Costs (After Lien Execution)	60.35	871.60
Unredeemed Liens Balance End of Year	<u>12,508.48</u>	<u>1,632.86</u>
Total Credits	\$14,503.04	\$6,634.19

1996 PROPERTY TAXES DUE

At December 31, 1996

Bailey	\$ 441.00
Bjorner	500.00
Brooks	3,703.00
Casey	139.00
Cavanaugh	1,632.00
Cooley Estate	4,852.00
Dempsey	399.00
Dexter	2,298.00
Moquia	336.00
German	1,377.00
Furneaux	1,405.00
Gibson	1,342.00
Glover	1,007.00
Hight	847.00
Hitzler	372.00
Hopp	714.00
Hunt	183.00
Hussey	259.00
Kelleher/Farrell	736.00
Kempton	1,120.00
Kenney, M.	1,252.00
Kenney, M.	547.00
Kenney, M.	47.00
Kenney, M.	545.00
Kenney, J.	4,007.00
King, Ruth & Jen	723.00
Callender	475.00
Chartier	1,738.00
Landis	632.00
Locke, I.	423.00
Locke, P.	1,294.00
Matta	398.00
McKenzie	378.00
McKeown	336.00
McKeown	110.00
McKeown	158.00
Montesi	901.00
Moody	1,784.00
Peckett, G.	556.00
Petrarca	759.00
Portinari	782.00
Portinari	327.00
Pottberg	652.00
Ruskin	52.00

Shepard	1,795.00
Sherburn, S.	303.00
Sherburn, S.	164.00
Sorg	254.00
Sturtevant	2,604.00
Summerlin	371.00
Trueman	<u>1,480.00</u>
Total	\$49,509.00

1995 TAX LIENS DUE

At December 31, 1996

Brooks, Mark	\$ 3,278.10
Cooley Estate	4,284.67
Shepard, David & Alice	2,074.85
Sturtevant, B.F., Inc.	2,311.66
Trueman, Laura	<u>559.20</u>
	\$12,508.48

1994 TAX LIENS DUE

At December 31, 1996

Brooks, Mark	\$1,632.86
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TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

Motor Vehicle Registrations	\$26,966.00	
Titles	84.00	
Dogs	242.50	
Penalties	8.00	
Filings	3.00	
Municipal Agent	484.00	
Transfer Station Stickers	98.00	
Bank Charges	35.00	
UCC	15.32	
Marriage Licenses	<u>90.00</u>	
Total Transferred to Town		\$28,025.82
Less Statutory Fees Paid to Clerk		
Motor Vehicles	(469.50)	
Titles	(84.00)	
Dogs	(42.00)	
Municipal Agent	(484.00)	
Marriage Licenses	(14.00)	
UCC	<u>(15.32)</u>	
		<u>(1,108.82)</u>
Net Income for Town		\$26,917.00
Town Clerk's Pay	\$ 500.00	
Town Clerk's fees, as above	<u>1,108.82</u>	
	1,608.82	
Expense for Clerk's Office - Utilities	<u>(349.90)</u>	
Total Pay	\$ 1,258.92	

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara J. Collier
Town Clerk

Office Hours

Monday Morning
10AM - 12 Noon

Thursday Afternoon
4PM - 6PM

**MARRIAGES REGISTERED
IN THE TOWN OF EASTON, NH
for the Year Ending December 31, 1996**

DATE & PLACE OF MARRIAGE	NAME AND SURNAME OF GROOM & BRIDE	RESIDENCE AT TIME OF MARRIAGE
Nov. 2, 1996 Berlin, NH	Jason D. Morton Karen A. Winne	Lisbon, NH Easton, NH
Dec. 5, 1996 Franconia, NH	Richard G. Robinson Gail B. Livingston	Easton, NH Little Compton, RI

**DEATHS REGISTERED
IN THE TOWN OF EASTON, NH
for the Year Ending December 31, 1996**

DATE & PLACE OF DEATH	NAME & SURNAME OF DECEASED	NAME & SURNAME OF FATHER	NAME & SURNAME OF MOTHER
Aug. 4, 1996 Lebanon, NH	Jane H. Colarusso	Fred Hobbs	Ethel Nixon
Nov. 4, 1996 Littleton, NH	Aime Rodrigue	Joseph Rodrigue	Marie Gagnon

REPORT OF THE EASTON FIRE DEPARTMENT

I am pleased to report that 1996 was a very quiet year in response to 911 calls. There were 8 calls compared to 16 in the previous year. The types of response calls included the following: a Mutual Aid structure fire, motor vehicle roll-over, gas leak, car accident, false alarms and even a dog rescue.

Regardless of the number of incidents, the Fire Fighters must continue to engage in training (both class room and hands on). In 1996, some of the training involved the following: Review of 911 procedures, pumping exercises, down power lines, hazardous material, chimney fires, a simulated structure fire at a local inn, review of sop's (standard operating procedures), as well as joint training with Franconia, Sugar Hill and North Woodstock Fire Departments. In addition to the above, Fire Fighters also attended the annual 2 day formal training programs conducted by the Twin State Mutual Fire Aid Association.

During National Fire Prevention Awareness Week, a children's program was conducted at the Franconia Children's Center.

EFD responded to a request to wet down the new soccer field at Profile High School during the heat wave last Summer.

The 6th Annual Fund Raiser was held in June. The chicken BBQ dinner, raffle, yard sale and private donations netted \$2,000. Monies realized from these events are used to buy various items for the Fire Dept. In 1997, a warrant article will be presented at Town Meeting to see if the Town will accept a gift of \$1,000.00 from the Easton Fire Fighters Association to set up a Capital Equipment Reserve Fund for future needs of the Department. It is hoped that this fund will grow over the years via donations, etc., to help reduce the impact on the Tax Payers as Capital Equipment is needed.

This past year a unique opportunity happened. The Tippings Family who live in New York and have a vacation home in Benton, presented the Town with a proposal to participate in the bidding for a used fire engine becoming available in New York. The Board of Selectmen held an open meeting and based on the input from those in attendance decided to go forward with the proposal. The Town put up \$900.00 plus a \$100.00 donation from a private citizen. The Tipping Family put up \$4,000.00 to secure the bid.

This engine will replace an older fire engine which is rusting out, subject to the voters approval for funds to purchase and install a new water tank in the newly acquired engine.

Our thanks to the Kinsman Valley Club, Easton residents and non-residents for their continued support and generosity throughout the years.

A special thanks to the Officers and Fire Fighters who volunteered over 2,000 hours of their time in 1996.

As of 12/31/96, I have retired from the Fire Service and therefore resigned as Easton's Fire Chief. I have found the job challenging yet very rewarding. The dedication and support I have received from the Fire Fighters is just outstanding. I leave the job feeling quite confident that the Fire Department is running smoothly and can respond to any emergency situation in a superior manner.

Your new Chief is Charles (Butch) Casey. He was Assistant Chief. Butch has been invaluable to me with his years of experience and ability to get the job done. Mike Valcourt has been elected as the new Assistant Chief.

It has been a privilege to serve as your Chief.

Respectfully,

Joseph R. Duggan

EASTON FIRE DEPARTMENT

Results of Operation

Year Ending December 31, 1996

	1996 <u>Budget</u>	1996 <u>Actual</u>	Over (Under)
Checking Account January 1, 1996	\$ 141.56	\$ 141.56	\$ -0-
Income:			
From Town of Easton	11,950.00	11,950.00	-0-
Interest From Bank	-0-	78.39	78.39
Other Sources	<u>-0-</u>	<u>191.93</u>	<u>191.93</u>
 Total Income	 11,950.00	 12,220.32	 270.32
Expenses:			
Training	1,200.00	237.00	(963.00)
Building/Utilities	2,000.00	2,233.18	233.18
Equipment	3,400.00	3,115.83	(284.17)
Maintenance/Supplies	2,600.00	3,104.10	504.10
Administration	700.00	565.71	(134.29)
Meeting/Travel	350.00	284.91	(65.09)
Twin State/Dues	200.00	200.00	-0-
Fuel/Gas	500.00	451.72	(48.28)
Insurance	<u>1,000.00</u>	<u>835.00</u>	<u>(165.00)</u>
 1996 Budget Total	 <u>\$11,950.00</u>	 <u>\$11,027.45</u>	 <u>(\$ 922.55)</u>
 Checking Account December 31, 1996	 \$ 141.56	 \$ 1,334.43	 (\$1,192.87)

REPORT OF TOWN FOREST FIRE WARDEN AND STATE FOREST RANGER

To aid your Forest Fire Warden, Fire Department and State Forest Ranger, contact your local Warden or Fire Department to find out if a permit is required before doing any open burning. Violations of RSA 227-L:17, the fire permit law and the other burning laws of the State of New Hampshire are misdemeanors punishable by fines of up to \$2,000 and/or a year in jail. Violators are also liable for all fire suppression costs.

There are ten Forest Rangers who work for the N.H. Division of Forests and Lands, Forest Protection Bureau. State Forest Rangers are available to assist communities with forest fire suppression, prevention and training programs as well as the enforcement of forest fire and timber harvest laws. If you have any questions regarding forest fire or timber harvest laws please call our office at 271-2217.

The State of New Hampshire operates 15 fire towers, 2 mobile patrols and 3 contract aircraft patrols. This early detection and reports from citizens aid in the quick response from local fire departments.

1996 FIRE STATISTICS (Cost Shared)

FIRES REPORTED BY COUNTY

Belknap	6
Carroll	7
Cheshire	13
Coos	10
Grafton	12
Hillsborough	19
Merrimack	14
Rockingham	15
Strafford	5
Sullivan	6

TOTAL FIRES 107

CAUSES OF FIRES REPORTED

Smoking	5
Debris Burning	34
Campfire	16
Power Line	4
Railroad	2
Equipment Use	1
Lightning	2
Children	22
OHRV	1
Miscellaneous	20

“REMEMBER, ONLY YOU CAN PREVENT FOREST FIRES!”

Stephen M. Kessler
Forest Ranger

Joseph Duggan
Forest Fire Warden

CEMETERY TRUSTEES' REPORT

Three burials took place during 1996, Ernest Doolan on May 9th, Jane Colarusso on August 8th, and Beulah Bowles on September 11th. Two cemetery lots were sold, a double site to Robert Colarusso on October 1st.

Memorial Day services were once more very successful and appreciation is extended to the Howard Shawney Post, Veterans of Foreign Wars, for their participation.

The resignation of Carol Hutton as a Trustee was accepted by the Selectmen on September 9th and the interim appointment of Bunny Ford to serve until the Town Meeting was made on December 2nd.

In addition to performance of normal maintenance functions, the Trustees hope in 1997 to begin the process of clearing and seeding the extra land on the cemetery's easterly end acquired as a result of the 1994 boundary line agreement with the Trustees of the Paine Estate.

Financial Statement

Balance on hand, January 1, 1996:	\$1,163.77
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Receipts:

1996 appropriation:	1,180.00	
Plot sales and interment fees:	350.00	
Perpetual care:	<u>200.00</u>	
		<u>1,730.00</u>

Disbursements

Cemetery Association dues:	10.00	
Lawn care:	1,080.00	
Memorial Day observances:	84.06	
Purchase of row tags:	31.20	
Transfer to perpetual care trust fund:	<u>200.00</u>	
		<u>1,405.26</u>

Balance on hand, January 1, 1997:	\$ 1,488.51
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Easton Cemetery Trustees

Gregory M. Sorg
Robert E. Every

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEE OF TRUST FUNDS
Year Ending December 31, 1996
Cemetery Reserve Funds

Date of Creation	NAME OF TRUST FUND	PRINCIPAL		INCOME		Balance End of Year
		Balance Beginning of Year	Balance End of Year	Balance Beginning of Year	Income During Year	
1916	R.W. Young	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 15.06	\$ 5.94	\$ 21.00
1922	P. Kinsman & B. Edwards	100.00	100.00	15.06	5.94	21.00
1937	Orin B. Bowles	200.00	200.00	30.17	11.89	42.06
1947	Arthur Pease	114.00	114.00	17.05	6.75	23.80
1949 & 1979	Charles A. Young	300.00	300.00	45.20	17.84	63.04
1959	Florence Pease	200.00	200.00	30.17	11.89	42.06
1966 & 1985	Whitcomb Tabbutt	600.00	600.00	90.12	35.57	125.69
1970	Edson & Harriet Bailey	100.00	100.00	15.06	5.94	21.00
1970	Leighton & Doolan	71.25	71.25	10.73	4.05	14.78
1971	M.H. & Idamae Bowles	100.00	100.00	15.06	5.94	21.00
1971 & 1989	William & Alice Muser	200.00	200.00	30.17	11.89	42.06
1973	Russell & Iva Stevens	50.00	50.00	7.53	2.97	10.50
1973	John W. & C.N. Leigher	100.00	100.00	15.06	5.94	21.00
1973	L. Gerard Paine	750.00	750.00	113.06	44.38	157.44
1974	Everett W. Bailey	100.00	100.00	15.06	5.94	21.00
1975	Howard Bonor	100.00	100.00	15.06	5.94	21.00
1979	William & Lillian Bailey	200.00	200.00	30.17	11.89	42.06
1979	Merton Edney	100.00	100.00	15.06	5.94	21.00
1979	Clayton & Sadie Glover	200.00	200.00	30.17	11.89	42.06
1980	Margaret Wolff	100.00	100.00	15.06	5.94	21.00
1984	Heinz & Helene Schultze	300.00	300.00	45.20	17.84	63.04
1985	William A. & Carol Bailey	200.00	200.00	30.17	11.89	42.06
1985	Stuart or Uncha Bowles	50.00	50.00	7.53	2.97	10.50
1988	Stewart & David Bowles	200.00	200.00	30.17	11.89	42.06
1988	Beulah Bowles	100.00	100.00	15.06	5.94	21.00
1990	John S. Noga	100.00	100.00	15.06	5.94	21.00
1990	Edward A. Hutton	100.00	100.00	15.06	5.94	21.00
1990	Gertrude Schulman	200.00	200.00	30.17	11.89	42.06
1990	Asa P. Ruskin	100.00	100.00	15.06	5.94	21.00
1991	Rosemary Johnston	25.00	25.00	1.51	1.93	3.44
1992	Russell & Ruth Towne	300.00	300.00	17.96	16.40	34.36
1993	Chris Jerome	100.00	100.00	5.97	5.50	11.47
1993	Mary E. Schlegel	600.00	600.00	35.75	32.83	68.58
1993	Walter Hold	100.00	100.00	5.97	5.50	11.47
1996	Jane H. Colarusso (NEW)	<u>0.00</u>	<u>200.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
TOTALS		\$ 6,260.25	\$ 6,460.25	\$ 840.72	\$ 366.87	\$ 1,207.59

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT

1996

The Easton Library has been attempting to increase its readership this year. The hours were changed to the first and third Monday evenings to coincide with the Selectmen's meetings. However, this had no noticable effect on the number of visitors. The Librarian was away for five months due to a family illness and the Trustees kept the Library open during this time, save for the month of August when the Library was closed. There have been only two new readers all year.

The total books checked out for the year was only 126 with a total of 63 visits from a small group of readers.

The Librarian and the Trustees are concerned about the future of the Library.

Harriet Taylor
Librarian

EASTON PUBLIC LIBRARY MEMORIAL FUNDS

Certificate of Deposit

Balance January 1, 1996	\$ 659.36
Interest Earned	<u>37.90</u>
TOTAL	\$ 697.26

CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Year ending December 31, 1996

Balance in Checking Account - January 1, 1996 \$ 1,022.85

RECEIPTS

Receipts from Town	\$ 200.00	
Interest from Bank	<u>16.03</u>	
		216.03

DISBURSEMENTS

Bank Expenses	\$ 60.00	
		<u>60.00</u>

Balance in Checking Account - December 31, 1996 \$ 1,178.88

SAVINGS ACCOUNT- PEOPLES BANK

Balance in Account - January 1, 1996	\$ 264.93	
Interest Earned -	<u>7.03</u>	
		<u>\$ 271.96</u>

POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT

There has been little criminal activity during the past year. Certainly, a great deal of credit should go to Easton residents who have kept a close and alert watch.

For some reason, there have been fewer motor vehicle accidents during the year.

In closing, let me again emphasize - KEEP YOUR EYES OPEN - WATCH FOR UNUSUAL ACTIVITY - EVEN DURING DAYLIGHT HOURS. There have been burglaries in surrounding towns. Easton has been spared because its residents keep their eyes open.

Thank you for the trust you have placed in me during the past year.

Easton Police Department
Robert E. Every, Chief

PLANNING BOARD REPORT

The generally quiet year experienced by the Town as a whole during 1996 was reflected in the activities of the Planning Board.

At its January 9th meeting, the Board approved Campbell and Pamela McLaren's subdivision of Lot 3 of Map 6 into two lots. At its August 6th meeting, the Board, noting David and Alice Shepard's completion of the subdivision's interior road to town road standards, and their fulfillment of all the other conditions of the Board's conditional approval of March 1, 1994, granted final approval to the subdivision of Lot 27 of Map 2 into two lots, and to the re-subdivision of Lot 27A into 26 lots. Also at its January 9th meeting, the Board approved new plans and specifications for the proposed road of the subdivision of Lot 32 of Map 4, owned by John Block. Work on that road had not been completed by the time Mr. Block sold that land to Carol Furneaux in November, and the conditions of the Board's March 1, 1994 approval of that subdivision, as modified at the January 9, 1996 meeting, remain unfulfilled.

In April, the Grafton County Superior Court denied the Town's cross-petition for attorney's fees and costs incurred in connection with the suit brought against it in 1994 by the Estate of Durand Cooley, bringing an effective end to the Town's involvement in the litigation growing out of the 1988 transfer of part of Lot 27 of Map 2 to David and Alice Shepard.

Virtually all of the rest of the Board's activities for 1996 was devoted to preparing, sending and reviewing responses to a questionnaire regarding possible changes to the Town's Master Plan. The Board's final report, approved January 7, 1997, is here reproduced in full:

SUMMARY

Background

At its monthly meeting of February 6, 1996, the Easton Planning Board noted that, since little subdivision activity was expected to take place in the Town during 1996, the year might provide a good opportunity to review and propose revisions to its land use ordinances. It was agreed that basic to this task is a review of the Master Plan, which had not been reviewed since its original approval at the Board's July 2, 1991 meeting.

Accordingly, at the April 2, 1996 meeting, a proposed questionnaire to be sent to Easton property owners was presented to the Board for review. The questionnaire was approved in revised form under the name "Master Plan Revision Survey" at the June 4, 1996 meeting, and plans for its distribution were finalized. On June 10th, the Board met to prepare mailings for the approximately 260 different land owners of the Town, which were sent the following day. A copy of the approved Survey and covering letter are appended as Attachment A. Over the next four months, approximately 60 responses were received, a rate of about 23 percent.

Between the August 6th and September 4th meetings, the approximately 56 responses by then received (which were later found to be representative of the total number eventually received) were collated according to Survey question number, which collation, a copy of which is appended as Attachment B, was presented to the Board at the September meeting. The Board, agreeing among themselves as to the perceived general trends of the responses, then undertook the drafting of a brief narrative summarizing these trends as to each Survey question. This narrative, a copy of which is appended as Attachment C, was presented at the November 5th meeting, where it was approved as an accurate reflection of the survey responses and as the basis of this Summary, which was approved by the Board in its present form at its meeting of January 7, 1997 for filing in the Town Records of the Town of Easton.

Survey Results

The overall tenor of the survey responses, with which the Board agrees, is that, although there has been growth in the Town since approval of the Master Plan in 1991, and although there will continue to be, that growth in general has been and should remain consistent with the expectations and projections set forth in the Plan; that the Town's present system of land use ordinances is adequate to meet present trends; and that no significant overhauling of either the Plan or the ordinances supporting it is necessary.

Easton residents still cherish most the scenic beauty and quiet of the Town, and feel that the present three acre zoning and related setbacks and road frontage requirements, and steep slopes and wetlands restrictions are adequate to maintain those qualities, if those requirements and restrictions are enforced. In this connection, several respondents suggested, perhaps only partly in jest, that the best way to ensure a de facto three acre minimum lot size would be by increasing the minimum de jure, or legal, size to five acres, thereby creating a sort of buffer to protect the Town from the tendency of the Zoning Board of Adjustment to grant variances allowing building on lots of fewer than the present de jure three acre minimum. A more serious caveat to the general endorsement of the three acre standard had to do with Easton's few remaining farms and large valley tracts, which almost all residents would like to see preserved intact, but which they also recognize could not be done through regulatory means, such as by creation of a zoning district, without seriously infringing the owners' rights to subdivide and profit from their land. In general, the residents believe, and the Board concurs, that present land use restrictions are adequate to protect Easton for the time being and for the immediate future from inadequately designed, constructed and maintained roads, from scenic and environmental despoliation and natural resource dissipation, and from creating a need for increased town-built and town-maintained infrastructure.

Surprising support was expressed for the concept of cluster housing, which was explained in some detail in the Survey questionnaire, but the support was tempered by concerns for the perceived strain on infrastructure it would bring and the perceived needs for municipal sewage, a bigger fire department and more roads. The Board views cluster housing quite the other way, as a means of minimizing fire protection problems and the need for roads and other infrastructure by concentrating housing to a small area, while preserving the present requirement that there be no more than one house for each three acres dedicated to a subdivision. A consensus appears to be lacking at present to make cluster housing a viable concept for purposes of amending the zoning ordinance to allow it.

Many respondents expressed concern with the escalation of our Town's tax rate in recent years. This phenomenon has been overwhelmingly the result of the skyrocketing increases in the component of our taxes payable to the Lafayette and Profile School Districts, which has in turn been the result of the prodigality of the school boards and voters, and the increased number of school age children living in Easton. There is little that Easton's land use ordinances can do to affect either factor, unless they were to be amended to encourage more real estate ownership for nonresidential uses or non-domiciliary purposes, such as by creating industrial commercial zones, or allowing the building of timeshare or quarter-share condominiums, uses which Easton residents do not generally want in this Town, and which create potentially expensive municipal problems of other kinds. The Board offers no recommendations for land use ordinance changes to arrest the growth of the Town's school age population, but is open to suggestions that are both practical and lawful.

The Board appreciates the efforts of those who responded to its survey.

Easton Planning Board

FRANCONIA LIFE SQUAD 1996

This year has been demanding yet rewarding for the Life Squad members. Our runs have increased and our training has also increased. We have worked long hours on the plans for our new RESCUE/AMBULANCE type vehicle. This new vehicle should be in service the first of the year. This will not be a transport vehicle at this time. We would like to thank all of you who made private donations, and the TOWN OF FRANCONIA for their financial support toward the purchase of this vehicle.

As well as to medical emergencies, the Life Squad responds to assist each of your Fire Departments on their calls. We also train with them.

I would like to express our appreciation to Franconia, Sugar Hill, and Easton taxpayers for their continued support of our Squad.

The following is a breakdown of our activity from January through November 1996. We have had a total of 95 reportable runs thus far.

EMERGENCY DESCRIPTION	<u>Total</u>	<u>Fran.</u>	<u>S. Hill</u>	<u>Easton</u>	<u>Other</u>
Motor Vehicle Accidents	27	20	5	1	1
Medical Emergencies	23	12	10	1	0
Rec. Vehicle Accidents	1	1	0	0	0
Bicycle Accidents	1	1	0	0	0
Misc. Health Problems	2	2	0	0	0
Cardiac Problems	5	4	1	0	0
Alcohol Problems	1	1	0	0	0
Deaths	1	0	0	0	1
Burns/Fire Related	0	0	0	0	0
Pediatric Emergency	4	3	1	0	0
Mt. Rescue Med. Emergencies	2	2	0	0	0
Attempted Suicide	1	1	0	0	0
Minor Med. Emergencies	13	8	4	1	0
No Transport/Refused	7	5	2	0	0
Life Line Calls	6	2	4	0	0
Airplane Accident	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
TOTAL RUNS	95	63	27	3	2

At this time, I would like to encourage anyone living in the tri-town area who is a certified E.M.T. to consider becoming a member of our Squad. Contact any Squad member for more information.

Respectfully submitted,

Joel N. Peabody
Chief, Franconia Life Squad

FRANCONIA/SUGAR HILL/EASTON RECREATION COMMITTEE

Our summer program had a new home base this year. We were at the multi-purpose room at the Lafayette Regional School. Our Director, Wendy LeClair, brought new ideas and our staff of Brian Frenkiewicz, Jennifer Collins, Amy Cyrs, Libby Cassaboom and Sheila King each added their own special touch. The summer program ran for eight weeks and was filled with hiking, swimming, sports, arts and crafts, theater and dance. Jean Serino again taught the children swimming lessons at the Hillwinds pool.

We offered Instructional baseball, farm league, little league and softball teams. Our coaches were energetic and dedicated. In addition soccer, and basketball games were offered at the Lafayette Regional School. Over 90 children enjoyed these events.

Our winter program offers a hockey program and free skating at the rink behind the Abby Greenleaf Library. The rules and hours of operation are posted. This year the committee is pleased to add Wednesday "Family Night" skating from 4-6 pm. There will be music to skate by and hot dogs and hot chocolate available at a small charge. A great social time for skaters of all ages.

Our committee meets monthly to discuss the changing recreational needs of our area and is interested in supporting and providing recreational activities to meet the needs of our community. Parent and community ideas and support are welcome.

The recreational programs we offer involved everyone. We are very fortunate to have the support and dedication of our coaches and parents. We encourage the public to become active in our programs, support the youth and take advantage of the programs we offer.

Respectfully submitted,

The Recreation Committee

RECREATION COMMITTEE MEMBERS

FRANCONIA

Steve Plant (resigned)

Carrie Hamblin

Kim Cowles

M. Kate Foley-Marvelli

EASTON

Kelley King

SUGAR HILL

Sally Field

Laurie Henault

**WHITE MOUNTAIN MENTAL HEALTH
AND DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES
DIRECTOR'S REPORT 1996**

All Persons Have the Right to Meaningfully Participate in the Life of Their Community

This is the mission statement of White Mountain Mental Health and Developmental Services. For more than a quarter of a century, our staff has worked to assure that individuals with mental illness or a developmental disability receive the supports to allow this mission to be a reality.

Many Easton residents have been able to remain living and working productively in their community due to the assistance of WMMH&DS. Psychiatric hospitalizations, residential treatment of children, and institutionalization of persons with a developmental disability are now exceedingly rare due to the availability of community based supports. Easton residents also have access to high quality, professional counseling for family problems, depression and substance abuse through White Mountain Mental Health. Not only do the recipients of services benefit from this intervention, but also the community. The cost of unaddressed emotional problems are felt in many different forms, including the quality of family life, the productivity of our work force and the safety of our streets.

During 1996 White Mountain Mental Health and Developmental Services provided the following to Easton residents:

- 26 hours of outpatient counseling services to Easton residents who were either uninsured or partially insured. The full cost of these services was \$1,690.
- Extensive supports, including housing, vocational services and family support to persons with serious developmental disabilities. These supports helped make it possible for these individuals to live and work in their community.
- Developmental assessments, case management, in-home support, speech therapy, physical therapy, and occupational therapy to families with infants or toddlers diagnosed with some form of developmental delay. These services are provided regardless of ability to pay.
- Perhaps most importantly, emergency services are available 24 hours per day, seven days per week to assist individuals, families, hospitals and law enforcement in managing psychiatric emergencies.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the people of Easton for their support over the past twenty five years. We continue to look to you, our community partners, to help us to continue to provide excellent services in this era of abundant problems and scarce resources.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane C. MacKay, CCSW
Area Director

HOSPICE OF THE LITTLETON AREA

1996 Annual Report

Hospice of the Littleton Area has completed its seventh year of providing volunteer services to residents of area communities. Our service area included the towns of Littleton, Bethlehem, Twin Mountain, Franconia, Sugar Hill, Easton, Lisbon, Lyman, Landaff, Monroe, Bath and Woodsville/Haverhill.

Our Director and volunteers provided supportive care at home, in hospitals, and in nursing homes to 45 individuals and families coping with the advanced and final stages of illness.

Our organization was very pleased this year to again offer support to two (2) new area programs. We continued to provide volunteer services to the North Country Home Health Agency's Medicare Hospice Program and we again offered supportive care to patients and families in the Hospice Room of Littleton Regional Hospital.

Our Hospice Program also conducted three support groups which were free of charge and open to the public. The Cancer Support Group, Breast Cancer Support Group and Bereavement Support Group offered a supportive and caring place to share feelings and experiences guided by a trained counselor. Thirty (30) individuals attended these support groups in 1996.

Volunteers gave over 1500 hours in the provision of services.

Our Hospice conducts a yearly nine (9) week long, eighteen (18) hour Hospice Volunteer Training Program for individuals interested in becoming volunteers or in increasing their knowledge about Hospice care. We now have over 100 trained volunteers available to support area residents.

There is NO CHARGE to patients or families for the services of Hospice of the Littleton Area. This service is made possible largely through the generous support provided by the twelve (12) towns that we serve. Without the support of Town Funding we would be unable to continue to provide services to the many patients and families we serve.

Your support of Hospice of the Littleton Area is greatly appreciated as we enter our eighth year of providing care to residents of area communities.

Respectfully submitted,

Holly Lakey, Director

TRI-COUNTY COMMUNITY OUTREACH REPORT

Outreach is the field services arm of the Tri-County Community Action Program. The purpose of this program is to assist low-income, elderly and handicapped persons to solve individual problems and to meet their needs through individual and/or group self-help efforts. Outreach Coordinators accomplish this purpose by providing information, counseling, referrals, guidance, organizational assistance, individual counseling and by effectively linking and utilizing community resources. If possible, we also may assist with Emergency Fund dollars in the form of vouchers.

Last year, the following assistance (client service units) was provided by the CAP Outreach Program in Littleton.

CATEGORY	TYPE OF ASSISTANCE	CLIENT SERVICE UNITS
Food	Emergency food supplies, Food Stamps, Government surplus foods, consumer education, food baskets, nutrition	317
Energy*	Electrical disconnects, out-of-fuel, Weatherization, woodstove, fuel wood, home repairs, furnaces	36
Homeless	Homeless or in imminent danger of being homeless	24
Housing	Emergency placements, furnishings, loans, home improvements, tenant/landlord relations	62
Budget Counseling	Money management, debt management, financial planning	58
Health	Medicare, Medicaid, Mental Health, Dental, Home Health, Emergency Response Units, Substance Abuse	10
Income	Job Corps, employment referrals, job training, welfare referral	78
Transportation	Emergency rides, car pools	4
Legal Assistance	Information and referral to Legal Aid	48
Other	Clothing, education, domestic violence, children's services	56
TOTALS:		693

*Does not include Fuel Assistance

Because of your support and that of other surrounding towns, we were able to keep our Littleton Outreach office open through the entire year. As a result, we were also able to leverage the following funds and/or provide the following services or products to the low-income people of your area:

LITTLETON/EASTON AREA	Funds or Products Provided		
	# Households	# Individuals	\$ Amount
FEMA (Emergency Food & Shelter)	20	56	\$ 3,124.00
USDA (Food products distributed-retail value)	70	699	1,151.00
Emergency Fund & Food Pantry Assistance	82	365	1,826.00
Homeless-Emergency Food &/or Shelter	27	68	8,198.00
Volunteer Hours @ \$4.25/hour	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u>957.00</u>
A. OUTREACH TOTAL:	199	1,188	\$15,256.00

Please note that these funds are in addition to the approximately \$4,000.00 Community Services Block Grant matching funds that are applied to each Outreach Coordinator's salary and other local office expenses. Your continued financial support is needed to insure the availability of these dollars for local use and to help in providing these essential social services in your community.

Also, our Outreach Coordinators did the application intake work for Fuel Assistance and Weatherization. As a result, the residents of your town received the following assistance from the Community Action Program this past winter:

	# Households	# Individuals	\$ Amount
FUEL ASSISTANCE	309	747	\$ 91,541.00
WEATHERIZATION	<u>15</u>	<u>58</u>	<u>22,383.00</u>
B. ENERGY TOTALS:	324	805	\$ 113,924.00
GRAND TOTAL ALL ASSISTANCE: (A. & B.) For July 1, 1995-June 30, 1996	523	1,993	\$ 129,180.00
EASTON C.A.P. CLIENTS	# Households	# Individuals	\$ Amount
FUEL ASSISTANCE	7	16	\$ 2,099.00
WEATHERIZATION	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>500.00</u>
TOTAL:	8	17	\$ 2,599.00

EMERGENCY TELEPHONE NUMBER

9-1-1

**POLICE - FIRE
MEDICAL EMERGENCY**

POLICE EMERGENCY

9-1-1

POLICE OFFICER

Robert Every - 823-8090

FIRE CHIEF

Charles Casey

FIRE WARDEN

Michael Valcourt

TOWN CLERK'S HOURS

Monday Morning
10:00 a.m. - 12 Noon

Thursday Afternoon
4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Dogs must be licensed by May 1, 1997

An up-to-date

DOG LICENSE & RABIES CERTIFICATE NUMBER
is required in Easton to License a dog.

**There is a \$1.00 Penalty for every month past May 1, 1997
and a \$15.00 Penalty if dogs are not licensed by June 1, 1997.**



Rebecca M. Ernst
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